

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A magnetic transfer method of manufacturing a master-information- recorded magnetic disk comprising bringing a magnetic disk into close contact with a magnetic transfer master having a magnetic film formed on at least one side, and transferring magnetically a pattern of the magnetic film on the magnetic transfer master onto the magnetic disk through application of an external magnetic field, the method including a defect detecting step for detecting defects in a disk, wherein

after the defect detecting step has confirmed that one of a number of defects on the surface of a cleaning disk and a size of the defects on the surface of the cleaning disk is not greater than a predetermined value, the cleaning disk is brought into close contact and separated from the magnetic transfer master a predetermined number of times, before the magnetic transfer master is brought into close contact with the magnetic disk and magnetic transfer is performed.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A magnetic transfer method of manufacturing a master-information- recorded magnetic disk comprising bringing a magnetic disk into close contact with a magnetic transfer master having a magnetic film formed on at least one side, and transferring magnetically a pattern of the magnetic film on the magnetic transfer master onto the magnetic disk through application of an external magnetic field, the method including a defect detecting step for detecting defects in a disk, wherein

after a cleaning disk has been brought into close contact and separated from the magnetic transfer master a predetermined number of times, the magnetic transfer master is brought into close contact with a detection disk, the detection disk having been subjected to the defect detecting step to confirm, for a surface of the detection disk that comes into contact with the magnetic transfer master, that one of a number of defects and a size of the defects is not greater than a predetermined value, and

the detection disk is then subjected to the defect detecting step and when the defect detecting step confirms that that one of a number of defects on a surface and a size of the defects is not greater than a predetermined value, the magnetic disk and the magnetic transfer master are brought into close contact and magnetic transfer is performed.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~magnetic transfer~~ method of manufacturing a master-information- recorded magnetic disk comprising bringing a magnetic disk into close contact with a magnetic transfer master having a magnetic film formed on at least one side, and transferring magnetically a pattern of the magnetic film on the magnetic transfer master onto the magnetic disk through application of an external magnetic field, the method including a defect detecting step for detecting defects in a disk, wherein

the magnetic transfer master is brought into close contact and separated from a cleaning disk a predetermined number of times, the cleaning disk having been subjected to the defect detecting step to confirm, for a surface of the cleaning disk that comes into contact with the magnetic transfer master, that one of a number of defects and a size of the defects is not greater than a predetermined value,

the magnetic transfer master is then brought into close contact with a detection disk, the detection disk having been subjected to the defect detecting step to confirm, for a surface of the detection disk that comes into contact with the magnetic transfer master, that one of a number of defects and a size of the defects is not greater than a predetermined value, and

the detection disk is then subjected to the defect detecting step and when the defect detecting step confirms that that one of a number of defects on a surface and a size of the defects is not greater than a predetermined value, the magnetic disk and the magnetic transfer master are brought into close contact and magnetic transfer is performed.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~magnetic transfer~~ method of manufacturing a master-information- recorded magnetic disk comprising bringing a magnetic disk into close

contact with a magnetic transfer master having a magnetic film formed on at least one side, and transferring magnetically a pattern of the magnetic film on the magnetic transfer master onto the magnetic disk through application of an external magnetic field, the method including a defect detecting step for detecting defects in a disk, wherein

after the pattern of the magnetic film on the magnetic transfer master has been magnetically transferred onto the magnetic disk, the magnetic disk is subjected to the defect detecting step, and when one of the number of defects and size of defects is equal or greater than a predetermined value, the magnetic transfer master is brought into close contact with and separated from a cleaning disk a predetermined number of times.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~magnetic transfer~~ method of manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk according to any of claims 8, 9, and to 11, wherein the magnetic transfer master and cleaning disk are brought into close contact by evacuating a gas between the magnetic transfer master and cleaning disk and the magnetic transfer master and cleaning disk are separated by introducing a gas between the magnetic transfer master and cleaning disk.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~[magnetic transfer]~~ method of manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk according to any of claims 8, 9, and to 11, wherein the magnetic transfer master is harder than the magnetic disk and the cleaning disk.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~[magnetic transfer]~~ method of manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk according to any of claims 8, 9, and to 11, wherein the cleaning disk is softer than the magnetic disk.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~[magnetic transfer]~~ method of manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk according to any of claims 8, 9, and to 11, wherein a region where there is contact between the magnetic transfer master and the cleaning disk includes a region where magnetic transfer is performed from the magnetic transfer master to the magnetic disk.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The [magnetic transfer] method of manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk according to any of claims 8, 9, and to 11, wherein in the process that the magnetic transfer master disk is brought into close contact and separated from the cleaning disk, the cleaning disk having no lubricant applied is used so as to remove foreign matter from the magnetic transfer master.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The [magnetic transfer] method of manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk according to any of claims 8, 9, and to 11, wherein the cleaning disk has a plating layer on its surface.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The [magnetic transfer] method of manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk according to claim 17, wherein the plating layer has magnetic characteristics.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The [magnetic transfer] method of manufacturing a master- information-recorded magnetic disk according to any of claims 8, 9, and to 11, wherein the surface of the magnetic disk is subjected to the defect detection process before magnetic transfer is performed, and immediately after confirming that one of a number of defects and a size of defects is not greater than a predetermined value, the magnetic disk is brought into close contact with the magnetic transfer master and magnetic transfer is performed.

20. (NEW) A magnetic transfer apparatus for magnetically transferring an arrangement pattern corresponding to predetermined information signals composed of a magnetic film formed on a magnetic transfer master onto a magnetic disk as a magnetized pattern of the information signals, comprising:

pressing means for bringing the magnetic transfer master and the magnetic disk into close contact with each other;

separating means for separating the magnetic transfer master and the magnetic disk from each other which have been brought into close contact with each other;

magnetic field applying means for applying an external magnetic field; and

defect detecting means for detecting defects on a surface of a disk,
wherein after a surface of a cleaning disk is inspected by the defect detecting
means and the defect detecting means has confirmed that one of a number of
defects on the surface of the magnetic disk and a size of the defects on the surface
of the magnetic disk is not greater than a predetermined value,
the cleaning disk is brought into close contact and separated from the magnetic
transfer master a predetermined number of times,
the magnetic transfer master is brought into close contact with the magnetic disk
by the pressing means, and
the external magnetic field is applied by the magnetic field applying means, so
that the pattern corresponding to the information signals is magnetically
transferred onto the magnetic disk as a magnetized pattern.